MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
TIGRA NEW WARRIORS
VENGEANCE MACE
162
EARLY SEP
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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR
MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY JOHN CZOP/TIM DZON

TIGRA

SLAVE OF PASSION
PART 1 OF 4, "ENSNARED"

WRITER .....DAVID DEVREIS
PENCILS .....JOHN CZOP
INKS .....PABLO MARCOS
LETTERS.....JON BABCOCK
COLORS .....MARYANN LIGHTLE

Tigra has found a place to call home, the Australian outback. Here she has found harmony with herself, the land and the people who live upon it, yet something will shatter this harmony, and leave her *ensnared* in the trouble to come!

MACE

"ORIGINS"
PART 3

WRITER .....CARL POTTS
PENCILS .....BARRY CRAIN
INKS .....HILARY BARTA, PHILIP MOY
LETTERS .....UL HIGGINS
COLORS .....ASHLEY POSELLA

A battle rages within the secret base of the Sunrise Society, as three highly trained Ninjas seek revenge, an end to the Sunrise Society and Dr. Ito's warrior clone Mace!

NEXT ISSUE:

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Dear Richard and Michael,

Capsule review of #157: Nice work on the Nick Fury piece from beginning to end, except it should have been much longer. Now to #158 (wasn't that quick?): This issue was one of my favorites. But before I do any reviewing, I'm still noticing how the letters page is drifting towards letters commenting on the book itself rather than the work in it, and the letter writers have had some interesting ideas that I've thought about now and then.

Michael Rose mentioned how this book doesn't have a concrete "feel" and I'd have to agree with him. Each issue varies in quality as well as style. Yet, the problem is inherent with the format of MCP. Sales must be good or I wouldn't be reading#158, right? So why not take a risk and experiment with the format of MCP in drastic ways?

How about trying a 48-page format like SHOWCASE at DC, as that's your foremost competition in the anthology market? The general consensus among the fan public is that DC does anthologies better, and I hate to hear that but perhaps it's true. (I read both titles, so I'm not biased.) DC gets the big names, and has crossovers with continuity. There are only three stories, so we get more than eight pages allotted. The price is only twenty cents more than this anyway. How about that format? Or why not try a MARVEL SPOTLIGHT if you are more interested in underused characters? If popular heroes are what MCP is looking for, I'd opt for a MARVEL TEAM-UP with no recurring star. I love MCP dearly, but perhaps more than a face-lift is what readers are clamoring for. Then again, maybe not. You think about it, and please invite the readers to openly respond to this letter.

1) CLAN DESTINE: The best part of the issue. Printing this is such a taunt, as I can't wait for the return of Alan Davis since Marvel UK's American market collapse. "Scare Tactics" was everything I'd expect from Davis and Farmer. Was this piece intended for MCP, or part of a bigger story from the original CLAN DESTINE book which was cancelled before release? **This story was commissioned by Richard for MCP when he heard that the CLAN DESTINE comic book was being resolicited and delayed. He wanted to give Marvel's readers a preview of the wonderful art and story that was to come later this summer.**

2) KYMAERA: I really enjoyed this four-parter despite this issue's abrupt ending. Ed Lazellari should be doing much more with the New Warriors based on this one. It's no masterpiece, but definitely fun. **Now it can be told! Ed Laz (as he's known around the halls up here at Marvel) originally started working on that story with Joe Rosas when he was a hard-working letterer here in the bullpen. It was commissioned by former editor Terry Kavanaugh and featured Namorita, that's right, Namorita. When it came time to publish the story, Namorita had turned blue over in the pages of New Warriors. Ed took brush in hand and did extensive art corrections to the finished art and coloring, as well as a few small changes to the script. It was quite a job but we thought you should know the amount of work he put into it. Ed, take a bow.**

3) VENGEANCE: Phantome's story is interesting, thanks to Chris Cooper's lively script. This writer is talented, for sure. Still, will Howard Mackie ever return to MCP? The Jones/Harper art was, as usual, a success and these two

(continued on cover three)

guys deserve more. **You may have already noticed that these three creators, along with colorist Joe Andreani, are our longest running MCP crew. As for Howard's return to these pages, well, that all depends on Howard having the time to put something together for us.**

4) SHANG CHI: The less said, the better. Nice art, though. I'd like to see this character back but only in a commercial miniseries.**We take it you weren't crazy about the story. Scripter Karl Bollers is working on some new plots for The Master of Martial Arts; perhaps these may be more to your liking..**

5) Both covers were superb, especially Davis', while Reggie's has a unique quality to it.

Thanks for your time and your devotion to change. I just hope that I can be of some help, and that you continue retooling this book until it's the best it can be. Something tells me the best is on its way, and quickly! See you in two weeks!

Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 2197
Union, NJ 07083-2197

Joey, as always thanks for your time. You bring up some interesting points in your letter, but remember MCP comes your way every two weeks unlike DC's SHOWCASE. We are continuing to work on the format and "feel" of MCP and hope you'll like what's in store.

Dear Richard,

Congratulations! MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #160 has been named "Best Overlooked Book of the Week" by The Pop Culture Radio Network. Every week, Kim "Howard" Johnson and Gary Colabuono each select a book that they feel hasn't gotten enough attention by fans and retailers, and spotlights these titles on the show.

With the tremendous amount of product on the shelves of comics shops each week, we've found that it's too easy for some terrific books to get lost in the crowd, and we instituted this award to focus on comics that may not receive as much attention or advertising as the few books targeted for extensive promotional campaigns each month.

In addition to the radio publicity, the issues are featured in the Chicagoland Moondog's stores with special header cards to emphasize the quality of the books.

Kim "Howard" Johnson
Host, Moondog's Pop Culture Radio Network
1201 Oakton St.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

This is to certify that
Marvel Comics Presents #160
has been selected
Best Overlooked Book
for the week of June 11, 1994 by
The Pop Culture
RADIO NETWORK
For The Pop Culture Radio Network

THANKS "Howard". We've finally got an award to hang on our wall!

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COVER BY MARK PACELLA/REY GARCIA

VENGEANCE

DIABOLIQUE
PART 3 OF 4
"THE SORCERESS'S APPRENTICE"

WRITER .....CHRIS COOPER
BREAKDOWNS .....REGGIE JONES
FINISHES.....FRED HARPER
LETTERS .....JON BABCOCK
COLORS .....JOE ANDREANI

There are bugs in the system, **BIG** ones. Down in the subway Vengeance finds the spider who sat down beside her (Diabolique), which leads him to a confrontation with Diabolique and the sorceress supreme Salome!

NEW WARRIORS

SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT
PART 4 OF 5
"IF YOU CAN RUN OUT OF TIME,
CAN YOU WALK OUT ON THE CHECK?"

WRITER .....FABIAN NICIEZA
PENCILS .....ROBERT WALKER
INKS .....SCOTT KOBLISH
LETTERS .....DIANA ALBERS
COLORS .....MARYANN LIGHTLE

The New Warriors and Slapstick are running out of time! While Dr. Yesterday has time on his hands, and warriors from time to help him in his mad machinations.

FROM RICHARD AND MICHAEL

The Surgeon General has determined that smoking is harmful to our health, yet millions continue to smoke. Some of Marvel's characters smoke, most do not. Our heroes are meant to be admired, their noble ideals emulated, their character traits..well? Should Marvel's four-color comics remain smokeless in an effort to set a better example to its readers? What would Nick Fury be without his eye-patch and ever-present cigar, Would Wolvie be as gruff and gravel-voiced if he gave up his occasional stogie? Would the Yancy Street Gang ever be able to slip the Thing a loaded lollypop if he gave up puffing a Habana now and then? Some people smoke, some don't. In an effort to make our characters more like real folks, through the years some of them have picked up the habit. Gambit and Blaze light up now and then, and it gives the scenes a sense of atmosphere and reality. We hope *no one* will try smoking because they think Gambit looks so cool when he does it. We hope *no one* tries smoking for any reason. Should we empty the ashtrays or offer a light to those who are the best at what they do? What's your opinion?

in the *no smoking* section
Richard and Michael

RARRRGHH!
PIG.
CAT.
WE MOVE AS ONE.
TIGRA
SLAVE OF PASSION
RE-INTRODUCING TIGRA IN AN ADVENTURE TOLD IN FOUR PARTS
PART ONE: ENSNARED

CHARGING...
...CRASHING THROUGH...
...UNSTOPPABLE!
UNTIL THE BRIAR'S FINGERS...
...RIP US APART...
... TO STAND...
...FACE TO FACE.
GRRAAHH!

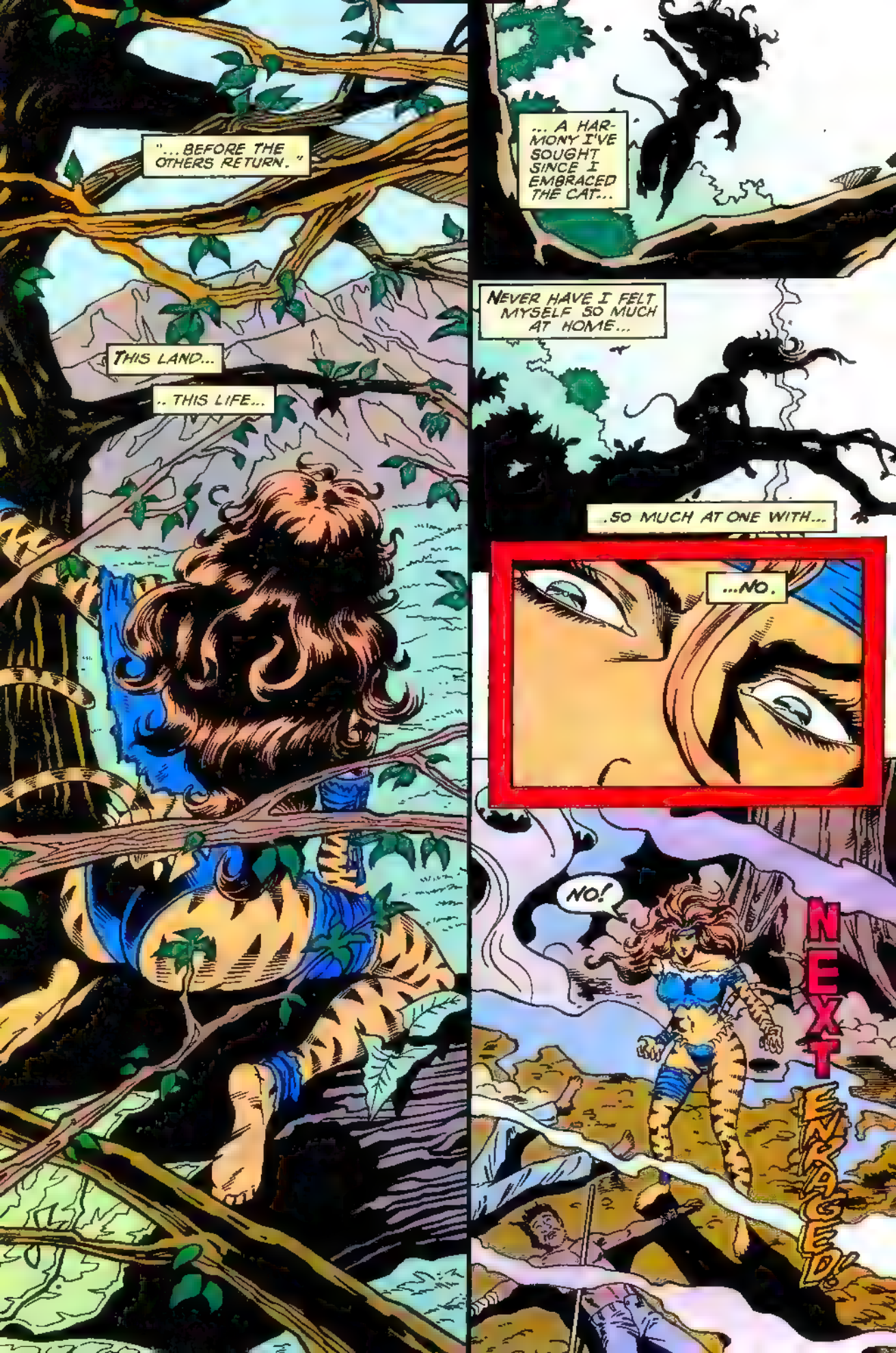
SNNOORRR!
...TOOTH TO CLAW...
SLASSSSSSHHH!!
...EYE TO EYE...
AARRRGHHHH!

MILES AWAY, IN SOUTHEAST ASIA...
...ON THE ISLAND NATION OF TEMASIKA.
THREE, eh? NO WORRIES, SULTAN.
NOW, YA SURE THAT'S ALL YOU WANT?
YES, MY FRIEND.
FOR NOW THREE WILL DO NICELY.
BUT, IF YOU CHANCE UPON ANYTHING ELSE OF INTEREST, PLEASE REMEMBER...
...MY MINISTERS AND I ARE ALWAYS ENTICED BY...

"...A TOUCH OF THE EXOTIC!"
HOME.
MY HOME.
THIS LAND...
...ARNHEM LAND...
...AUSTRALIA.
THIS LAND IS MY LAND...
ROOARRRGH!
...AND I AM HERE!

BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA
OKAY LADS, LET'S DO IT!
Heh-Heh-Heh... HEY, BLOWFLY! THIS ONE LOOKS CHOICE ENOUGH.
SHE'LL DO FOR STARTERS!
NO!
ARRGHH!

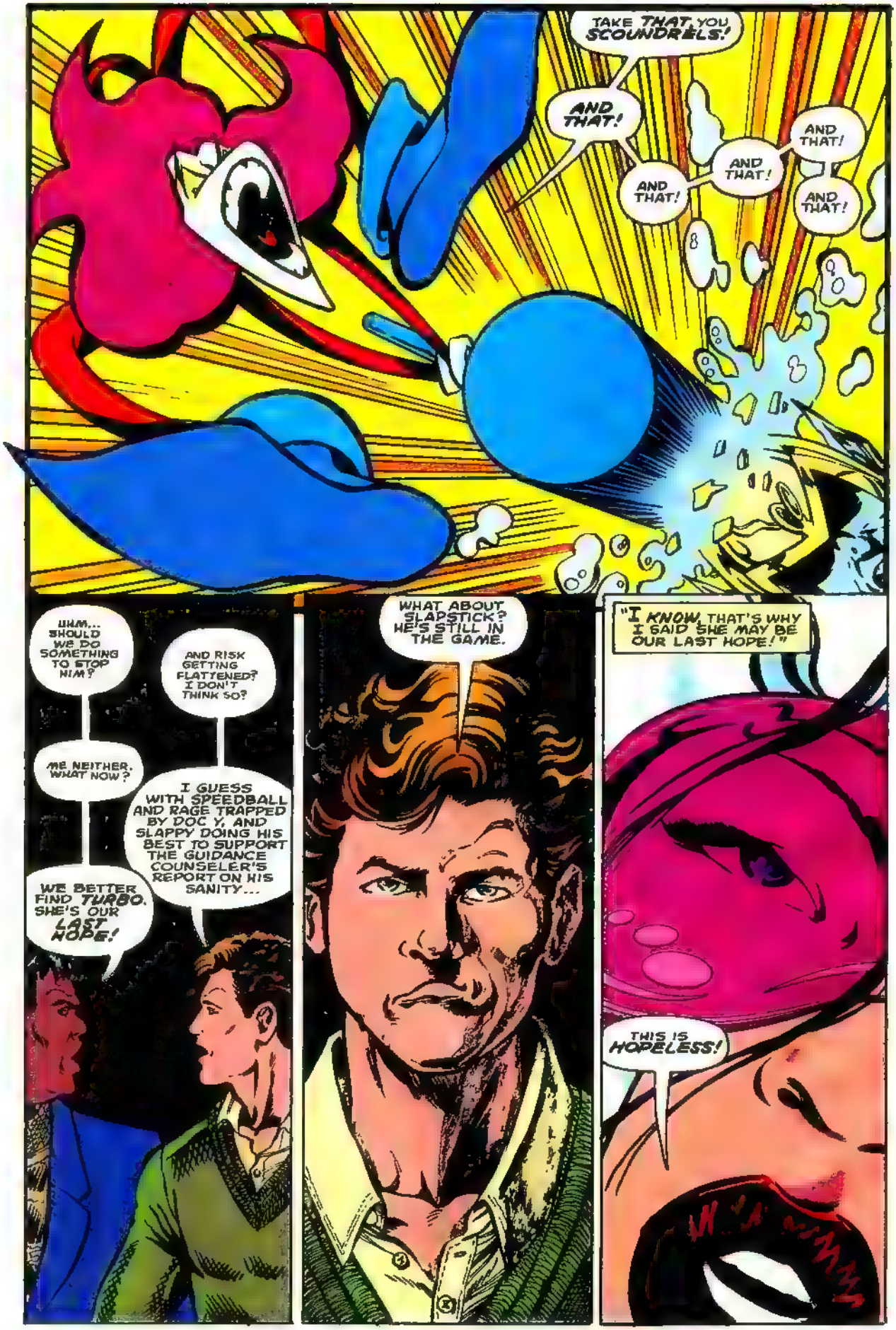
BRATTA RATTA RATTA
YEE-HARRR!
COOO-EEEE!
YA-BOOO!
OKAY LADS, EASE UP-- SAVE SOME FOR THE SULTAN.
HEH HEH HEH...
SO, HEINRICH-- HOW'S IT GOING?
GNNGH... NEVER BETTER, MATE...
...NEVER BETTER.
OKAY, ENOUGH STUFFING AROUND... LET'S MOVE 'EM OUT!
YEAH, THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG WE'VE GOT--


"...BEFORE THE OTHERS RETURN."
THIS LAND...
..THIS LIFE...
...A HARMONY I'VE SOUGHT SINCE I EMBRACED THE CAT...
NEVER HAVE I FELT MYSELF SO MUCH AT HOME...
..SO MUCH AT ONE WITH...
...NO.
NO!
NEXT
ENRAGED!

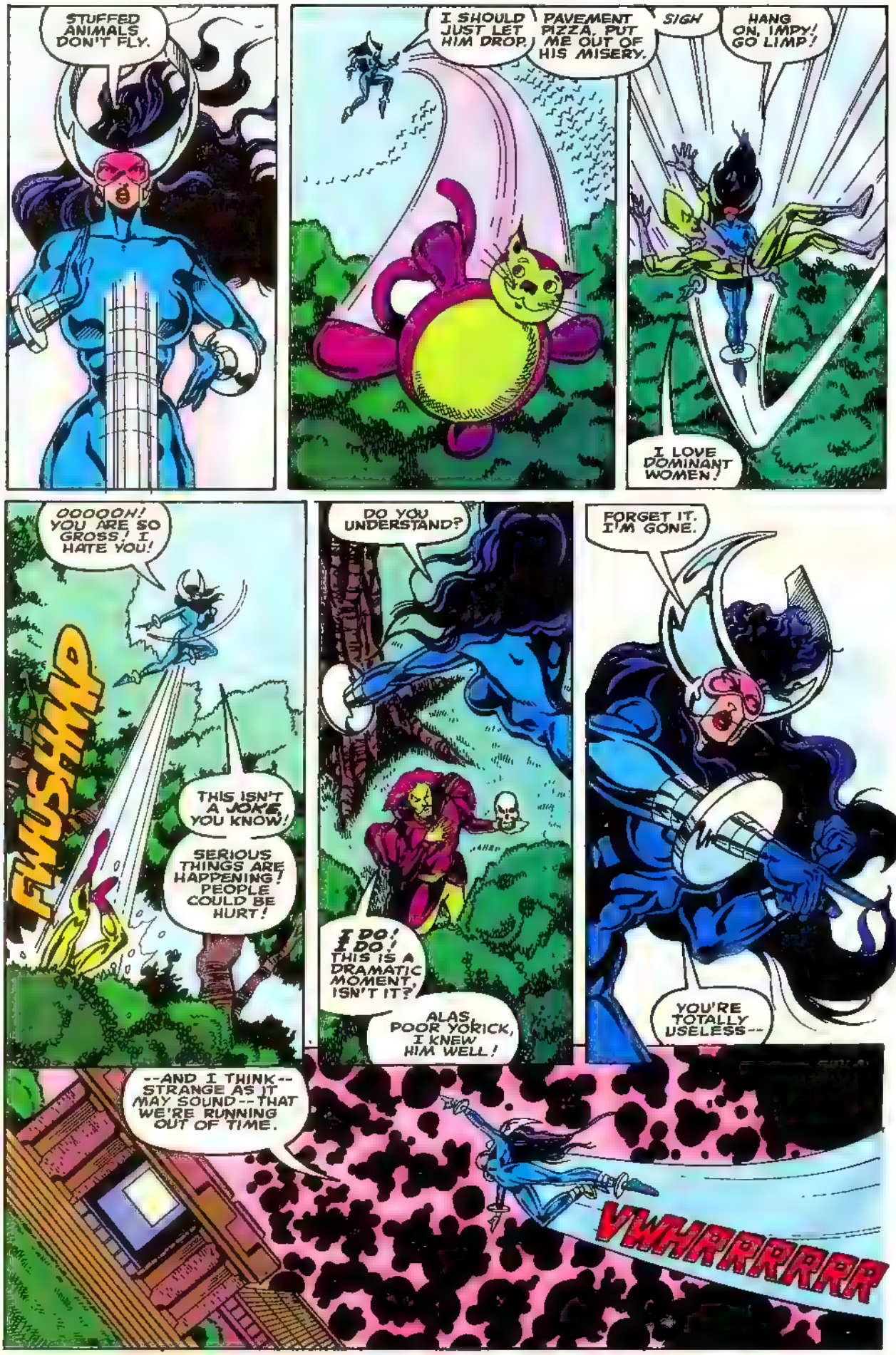
THE NEW WARRIORS
IN
SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRITS
CHAPTER FOUR: IF YOU CAN RUN OUT OF TIME, CAN YOU WALK OUT ON THE CHECK?

OUR STORY SO FAR...
...AAAAH, FORGET IT!
THIS ONE IS WAY TOO STUPID FOR US TO EVEN TRY EXPLAINING IT!
THAT'S SLAPSTICK. HE DOESN'T FIGHT CRIME SO MUCH AS PLAY CRUEL TRICKS ON IT!
THESE ARE ALL SOLDIERS DISPLACED FROM DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS BY DR. YESTERDAY, THE BAD-GUY WHOSE MOTIVES ARE AS YET, UN-KNOWN...
..BUT WHOSE ACTIONS HAVE RESULTED IN POCKETS OF TIME TO BE DISPLACED THROUGHOUT MANHATTAN!
TWO STALWART YOUNGSTERS TRYING TO FIND THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM ARE WARRIORS ALLY MIKE JEFFRIES AND SLAPSTICK'S PAL MIKE PETERSON
HAVE THEY COME UP WITH AN ANSWER TO THE PROBLEMS THEIR FRIENDS FACE?
LET'S RUN!!

APPARENTLY NOT...
GET BACK HERE YOU $%#@ING COWARDS!!
I'VE TRIED TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THAT MOUTH OF HIS.
EXCUUUUUUSE ME, BUT MY OL' "UNSTABLE MOLECULE" BODY--
NOT AT ALL THE WAY SUPER HEROES SHOULD CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN PUBLIC.
--SEEMS TO BE UNDERGOING THE STRICTEST OF TIMEX TESTS OVER HERE!
AND LIKE THE CLASSIC TIME-PIECE KNOWN FOR ITS TOUGHNESS--
--SO TOO SHALL THIS INTREPID WARRIOR RISE TO QUELL THE TIDAL WAVE OF BARBARIANISM WHICH SEEKS TO ENGULF HIM!
AND ALL I NEED TO DO MY QUELLING IS MY TURSTY MALLET!
POINK!
FORGED OF ASGARDIAN METALS BY TROLLS FROM A HIDDEN RECIPE!
ANCIENT CHINESE SECRET, EH?


TAKE THAT, YOU SCOUNDRELS!
AND THAT!
AND THAT!
AND THAT!
AND THAT!
UHM... SHOULD WE DO SOMETHING TO STOP HIM?
AND RISK GETTING FLATTENED? I DON'T THINK SO?
ME NEITHER. WHAT NOW?
I GUESS WITH SPEEDBALL AND RAGE TRAPPED BY DOC Y, AND SLAPPY DOING HIS BEST TO SUPPORT THE GUIDANCE COUNSELER'S REPORT ON HIS SANITY...
WE BETTER FIND TURBO. SHE'S OUR LAST HOPE!
WHAT ABOUT SLAPSTICK? HE'S STILL IN THE GAME.
"I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I SAID SHE MAY BE OUR LAST HOPE!"
THIS IS HOPELESS!

I'VE DONE A RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT OVER MOST OF MANHATTAN--
--AND THERE ARE NO OTHER MORE EXPERIENCED SUPER HEROES AVAILABLE!
THE TIME DISTORTION IS LIMITED TO THE ISLAND, BUT I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE OUT IN NEW JERSEY OR CONNECTICUT THAT I CAN GET TO HELP US!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE EVEN TRYING TO STOP ALL THIS FUN, MY YOUNG, SUPPLE, NUBILE TERRAN LOVE!
IMPOSSIBLE MAN-- I DON'T KNOW WHY THE TIME WAVE HASN'T DRAGGED YOU BACK TO WHATEVER TIME PERIOD YOU CAME FROM--
--AND I HAVE NO CLUE WHY YOU KEEP FOLLOWING ME AROUND LIKE A PUPPY DOG--
--BUT ONE THING I DO KNOW, AND THAT IS--
--THAT I AM NOT SUPPLE!
WELL, MAYBE I AM..
.. BUT I AM MOST CERTAINLY NOT YOUR "LOVE"--! GOD HELP ME!
I FIND YOU AS EXCITING AS THIS WHOLE PLANET!
IS NOT ALL OF THIS JUST SO MUCH FUN?
NO, IT IS NOT!
AND YOU FORGOT ONE LITTLE THING ABOUT CHANGING YOUR FORM..
AND WHAT IS THAT?


STUFFED ANIMALS DON'T FLY.
I SHOULD JUST LET HIM DROP.
PAVEMENT PIZZA. PUT ME OUT OF HIS MISERY.
SIGH
HANG ON, IMPY! GO LIMP!
I LOVE DOMINANT WOMEN!
OOOOOH! YOU ARE SO GROSS! I HATE YOU!
FWUSHHH
THIS ISN'T A JOKE, YOU KNOW!
SERIOUS THINGS ARE HAPPENING! PEOPLE COULD BE HURT!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I DO! I DO! THIS IS A DRAMATIC MOMENT, ISN'T IT?
ALAS, POOR YORICK, I KNEW HIM WELL!
FORGET IT. I'M GONE.
YOU'RE TOTALLY USELESS--
--AND I THINK-- STRANGE AS IT MAY SOUND-- THAT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
VWHRRRRRR

WAIT FOR ME!
NO.
NO, YOU CAN'T.
BUT I CAN HELP!
I PROMISE, I CAN! I WILL!
THAT IS THE NEFARIOUS NE'ER-DO-WELL DOWN THERE NOW, RIGHT?
THE LAST OF THE REMAINING SELF-STYLED HEROES HAVE FALLEN.
AND WHAT DELICIOUS IRONY THAT WE ALL KNEW IT WOULD SIMPLY BE A MATTER OF TIME!
HUMPH... WHO COMES NOW?
TWO MORE OF YOUR KIND DOT THE SOUTHERN SKYLINE.
VERY WELL, IF I HAVE TO ELIMINATE YOU ALL ONE BY ONE IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH MY TASK, I WILL DO SO.
IMPY--WAIT-- WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE CAN DO TO YOU!
OH, POOH, WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD THAT MAKE, MY LOVE?
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, IT WILL BE SO MUCH FUN!
FUN?
SH
DID YOU SAY, "FUN"--?
AKKKAKROWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWW
THIS IS NOT FUN FOR ME!!
THIS IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

CAN YOU COMPREHEND WHAT THAT MEANS, CREATURE?
SURE, I CAN!
IT MEANS THAT I'M SMACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME HONEST-TO-GOODNESS REAL POIGNANT HUMAN DRAMA!
BOY, YOU EARTH PEOPLE SURE KNOW HOW TO LIVE!
NO, LITTLE MAN...
...THE SADNESS OF THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT SOME OF US DO NOT KNOW "HOW TO LIVE"...
...BUT I DO KNOW HOW TO DIE.
BECAUSE I AM DYING, A TERMINAL ILLNESS.
ROBBING ME OF ALL PEOPLE, A CHRONAL RESEARCH SPECIALIST, OF PRECIOUS TIME TO LIVE.
BUT I WILL NOT LET THIS DEFEAT ME.
CAN'T TURN THE CLOCK BACK TO A TIME WHEN THIS CANCER WAS NOT EATING AWAY AT ME!
I WILL TURN TIME ON ITSELF AND SEE THE UNIVERSE DIE WITH ME!
HOW FITTING DON'T YOU THINK-- THAT IF I AM TO HAVE TIME TAKEN AWAY FROM ME, SO TOO, WILL I TAKE BACK TIME FROM EVERYONE ELSE!
AND IN SO DOING, END ALL TIME, ONCE AND FOR ALL!
TO BE CONCLUDED!!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
MARVEL
MIDNIGHT SONS
182
VENGEANCE
NEVARR
MACE
TIGRA
MARK PACELLA
REY '94
GARCIA
DEEM

VENGEANCE

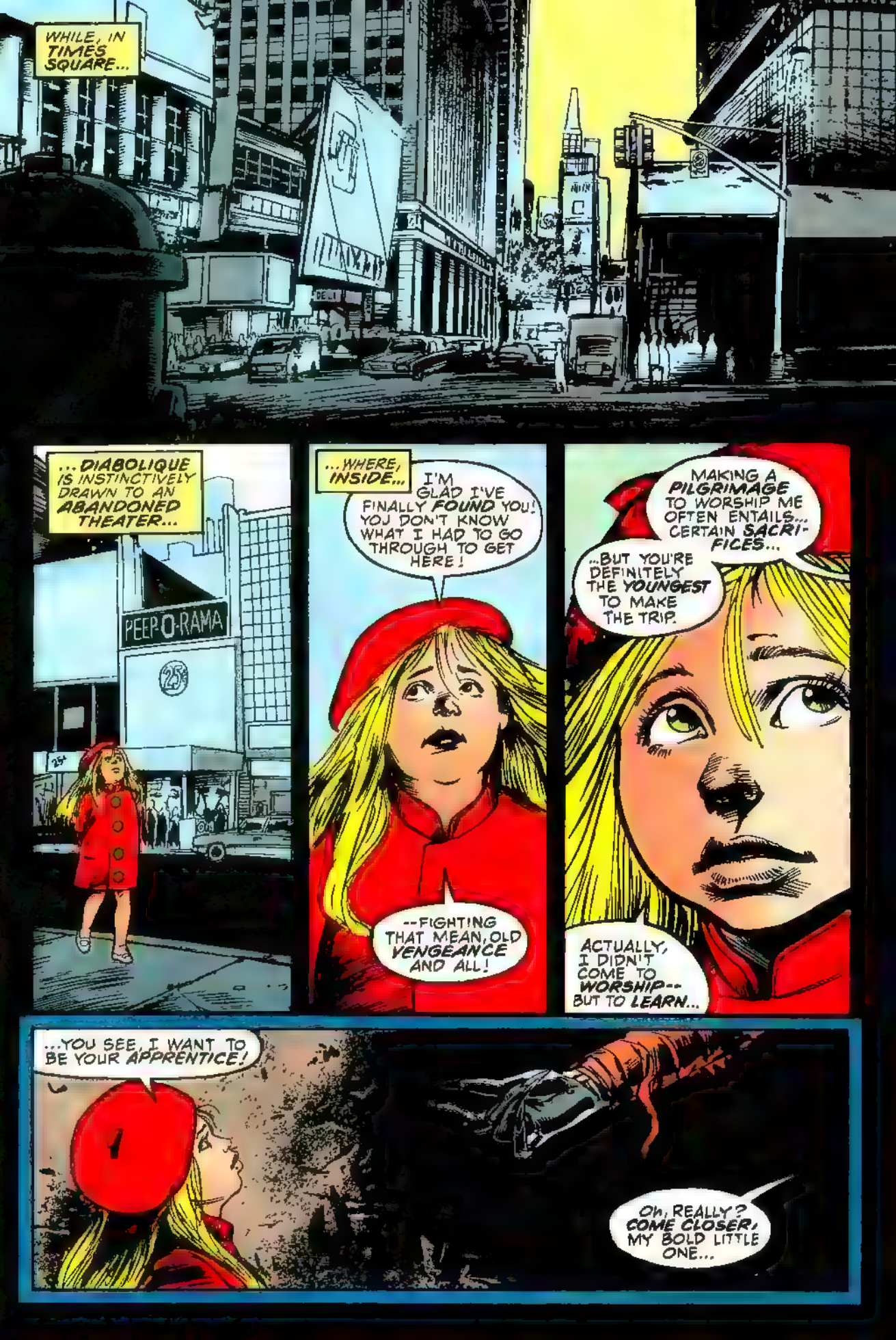
THE SORCERESS'S APPRENTICE

PEST CONTROL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM IN NEW YORK'S SUBWAYS...
...THOUGH PERHAPS THE PROBLEM'S GOTTEN A LITTLE BIGGER THAN VENGEANCE EXPECTED.

THIS HORROR MOVIE REFUGEE HAS ME WEBBED UP TIGHT! GOTTA GET SOME ROOM TO MANEUVER--
--WITH THE ONLY FREE LIMB I'VE GOT LEFT!
SKREEEEEEE!
WHAK
THERE--NOW THAT I'VE TORN LOOSE OF THE WEBBING...
...MAYBE I'LL PUT THESE SHOULDER SPIKES TO GOOD USE!
HELLFIRE HURTS IT, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO STOP IT...
...AND WHEN I TORE OFF ONE OF ITS ARMS, IT JUST GREW A NEW ONE TO REPLACE IT...

...SO MAYBE IT'S TIME I TOOK A STAB AT THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM!
CHUNK
SKREEEEEE!

IF I FOLLOW THAT UP WITH A BLAST OF HELL-FIRE DIRECTLY TO THE WOUND...
BCHOOM
...KNOCKING THIS OVERGROWN BUG ONTO THE SUBWAY TRACKS..
...THE EXPRESS TRAIN CAN--
VROOOOOM
--MAKE A REALLY DISGUSTING MESS.
SHSPLUTCH
UNBELIEVABLE! IT'S STILL CLINGING TO LIFE! THOUGH IT'S SHRUNK BACK TO NORMAL SIZE.
YOU MAY HAVE BOUGHT YOUR BRAT MISTRESS, DIABOLIQUE, TIME TO ESCAPE, BUG--
--BUT YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT WITH YOUR LIFE!
WAIT-- I HAVE A BETTER IDEA...


WHILE, IN TIMES SQUARE...
...DIABOLIQUE IS INSTINCTIVELY DRAWN TO AN ABANDONED THEATER...
PEEP-O-RAMA
25¢
...WHERE, INSIDE...
I'M GLAD I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU! YOJ DON'T KNOW WHAT I HAD TO GO THROUGH TO GET HERE!
--FIGHTING THAT MEAN, OLD VENGEANCE AND ALL!
MAKING A PILGRIMAGE TO WORSHIP ME OFTEN ENTAILS... CERTAIN SACRIFICES...
...BUT YOU'RE DEFINITELY THE YOUNGEST TO MAKE THE TRIP.
ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T COME TO WORSHIP-- BUT TO LEARN...
...YOU SEE, I WANT TO BE YOUR APPRENTICE!
Oh, REALLY? COME CLOSER, MY BOLD LITTLE ONE...

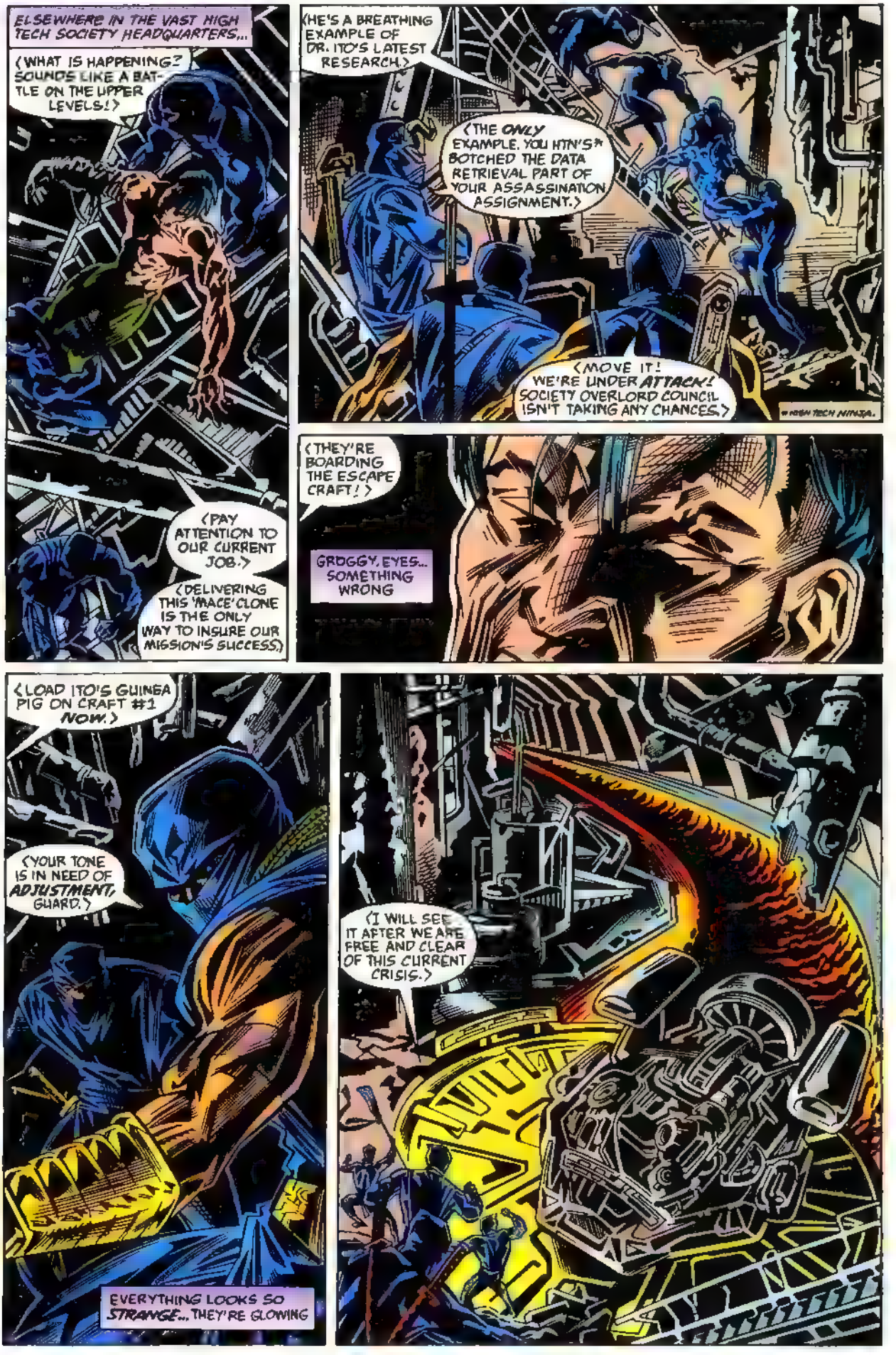
...AND TELL ME WHY SALOME, SORCERESS SUPREME, SHOULD TAKE ON A STRIPLING LIKE YOU!?
IF YOUR POWERS ARE WEAK, LITTLE WITCH, THEN YOU ARE UNWORTHY. AND IF THEY ARE GREAT--
--AND I'VE SENSED YOUR POWER SINCE YOU ARRIVED IN THIS CITY TO SEARCH FOR ME--
--THEN YOU ARE A POTENTIAL THREAT TO BE DESTROYED.
BUT MA'AM, WE'RE WILLING TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT US TO DO--ME AND MY BEST FRIEND...
...WHO'S SORT OF BALLED UP IN MY POCKET RIGHT NOW...
...PLAYMATE! PLAYMATE CAN DO LOTS OF THINGS...
...AND EVEN ACTS AS A BATTERY FOR MY POWERS!
REMARKABLE! THIS CHILD HAS FOUND THE MEANS TO ENSLAVE HELPLESS MORTALS, BODY AND SOUL...
...AS ONE GIANT, AGONIZED MASS OF PROTOPLASM!
AND SINCE I FEED ON HUMAN SUFFERING, THEIR AGONY... IS MY SUBLIME DELIGHT!
THIS CHILD MAY YET BE OF USE... IF SHE PASSES THE TEST...

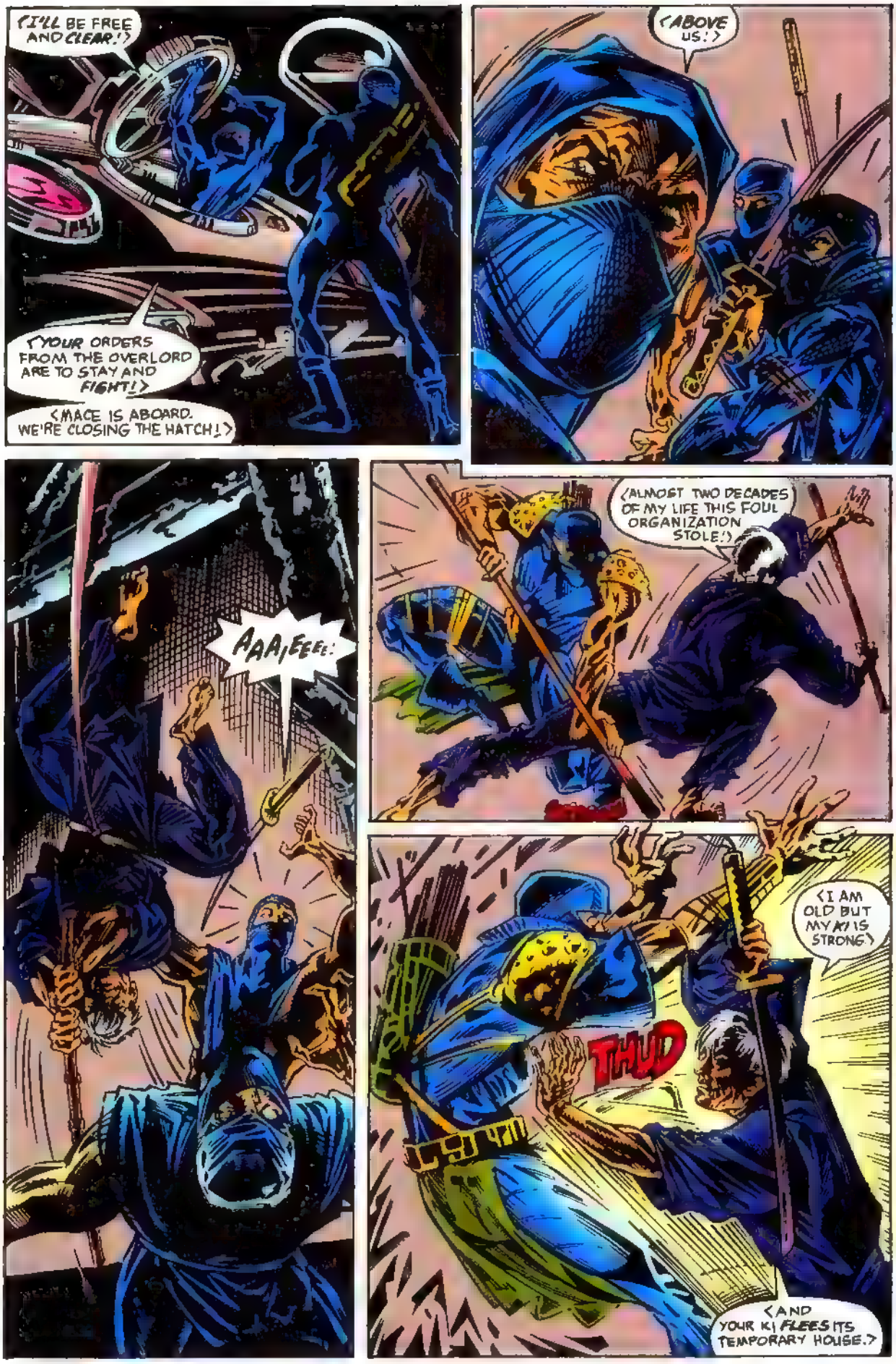
:GASP!
ZOROASTER!
OH, MY POOR LITTLE ZORO! WHAT HAPPENED?!
I HAPPENED!
I LET YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE PET LIVE JUST LONG ENOUGH TO LEAD ME TO YOU.
BUT RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT BIGGER FISH-- SALOMÉ, THE EVIL WITCH WHO REPLACED DR. STRANGE--
--TO FRY!
BLHOOM
SHE DEFLECTED MY HELLFIRE... WITH HARDLY A THOUGHT
SPLASH
FOOL--DID YOU REALLY THINK TO ENTER THE VERY SEAT OF MY POWER UNDETECTED--
--OR THAT I WOULD BE UNPREPARED?!

YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING! AND YOU KILLED ZORO!
AND I HEARD EVERY WORD OF YOUR PLAN!
I WON'T ALLOW THIS UNHOLY ALLIANCE!
YOU PLAN TO STOP US? TAKE US ALL ON, ALONE, WITHOUT YOUR PRECIOUS MIDNIGHT SONS ALLIES--
--HERE, WHERE MY POWERS ARE GREATEST?!
HAHAHA! I WON'T EVEN SOIL MY HANDS WITH YOU!
THIS, DIABOLIQUE, IS YOUR TEST OF WORTHINESS! TO BECOME MY APPRENTICE, YOU HAVE BUT TO PASS IT--
--BY DESTROYING YENGEANCE!!
TO BE CONCLUDED!

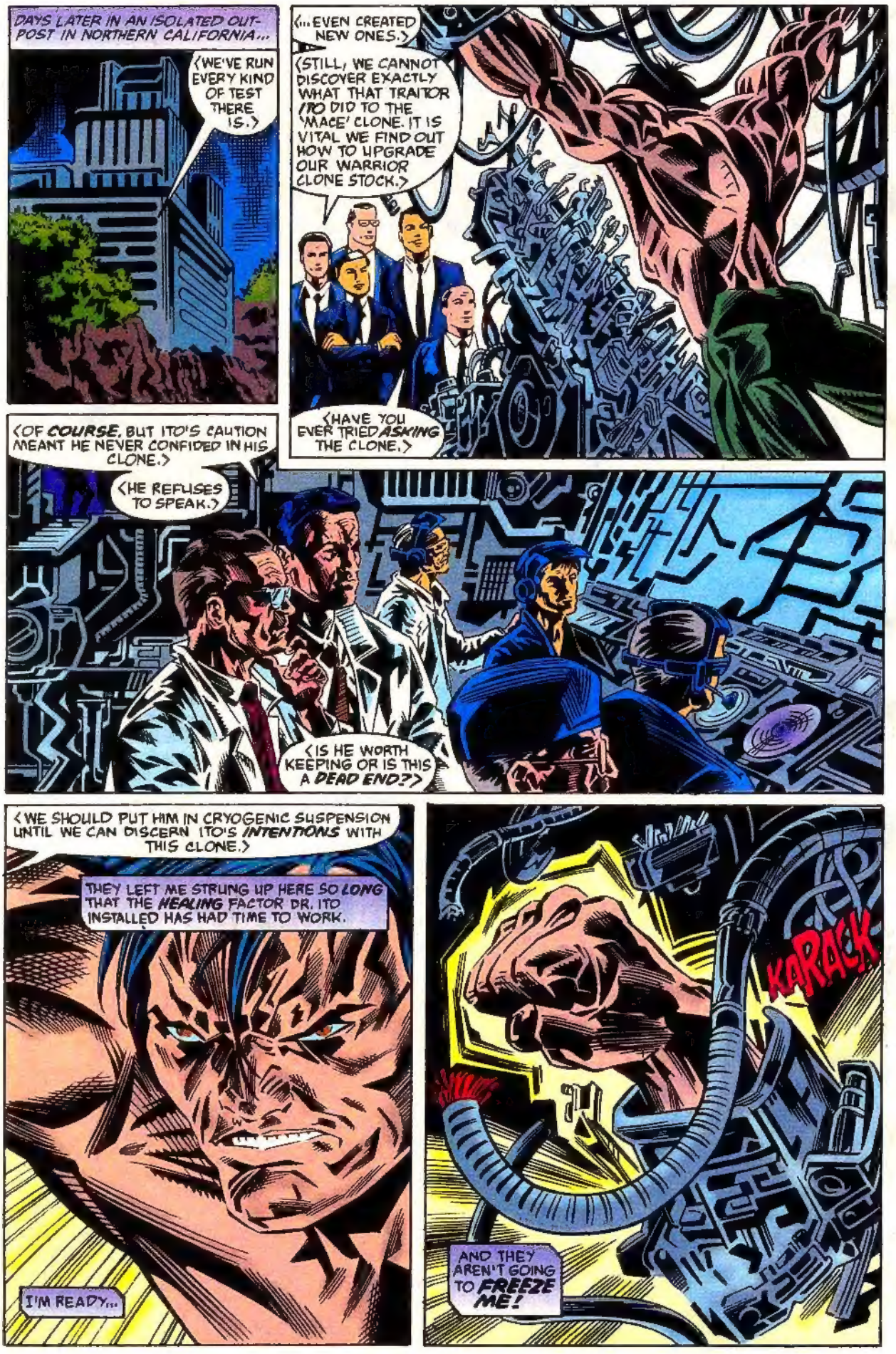
〈HEAD FOR THE HANGAR...*〉
〈...LEAVE ONE CRAFT INTACT FOR OUR ESCAPE.〉
〈THESE LASER/SHOTGUN COMBO GUNS WE 'LIBERATED' FROM THE SUNRISE SOCIETY WILL GIVE US THE EDGE WE NEED TO BUST THIS SOCIETY BASE WIDE OPEN!〉
〈I MUST SETTLE OLD SCORES BEFORE I LEAVE.〉
BLAM! BLAM!
*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE
FOR AN EXPANDED AND DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW OF THESE EVENTS, PICK UP SHADOWMASTERS #4.
ORIGINS
PART THREE
THE MACE
CREATED BY CARL POTTS & BARRY CRAIN

SWOOSH
SWOOSH
(TOO MUCH SMOKE! THEY'RE LIKE SHADOWS! CAN'T SEE WHO'S ATTACKING... URGH!)
(THOSE WHO SLAYED MY FATHER...)
(... WILL NOT LIVE OUT THE DAY.)
WHIP
(THERE IS NO NEED FOR SLAUGHTER, SISTER.)
(...WE CAN PUT THE SOCIETY OUT OF BUSINESS WITHOUT SPILLING MORE BLOOD.)
(NINPO SKILLS OF OUR FATHER AND THE SPIRIT OF AIKI ARE ENOUGH.)
(MAYBE FOR YOU TWO BUT NOT FOR ME, BROTHER!)

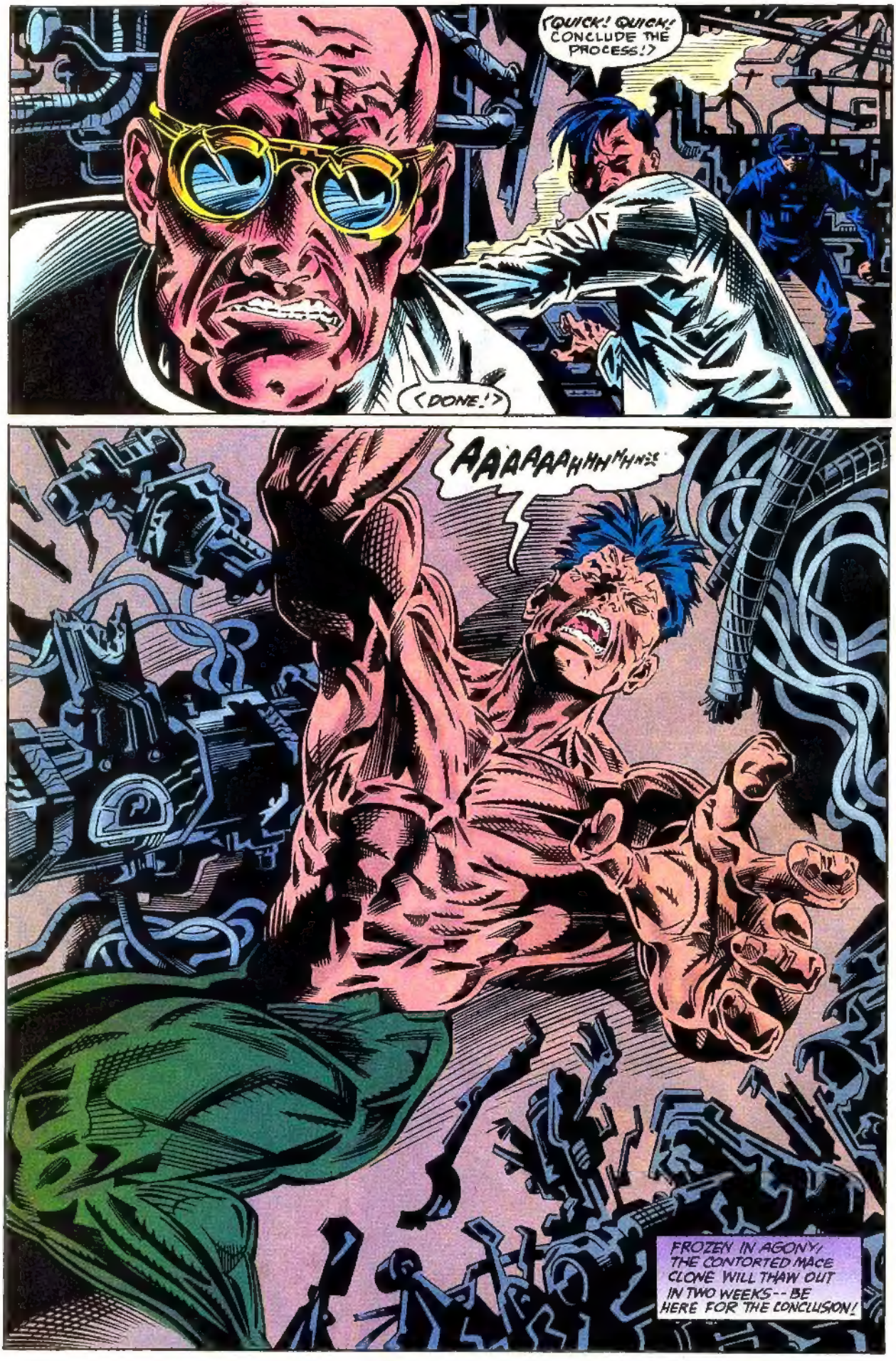

ELSEWHERE IN THE VAST HIGH TECH SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS...
〈WHAT IS HAPPENING? SOUNDS LIKE A BATTLE ON THE UPPER LEVELS!〉
〈PAY ATTENTION TO OUR CURRENT JOB.〉
〈DELIVERING THIS 'MACE' CLONE IS THE ONLY WAY TO INSURE OUR MISSION'S SUCCESS.〉
〈HE'S A BREATHING EXAMPLE OF DR. ITO'S LATEST RESEARCH.〉
〈THE ONLY EXAMPLE. YOU NTN'S* BOTCHED THE DATA RETRIEVAL PART OF YOUR ASSASSINATION ASSIGNMENT.〉
〈MOVE IT! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! SOCIETY OVERLORD COUNCIL ISN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES.〉
© HIGH TECH NINJA.
〈THEY'RE BOARDING THE ESCAPE CRAFT!〉
GROGGY, EYES... SOMETHING WRONG
〈LOAD ITO'S GUINEA PIG ON CRAFT #1 NOW.〉
〈YOUR TONE IS IN NEED OF ADJUSTMENT, GUARD.〉
EVERYTHING LOOKS SO STRANGE... THEY'RE GLOWING
〈I WILL SEE IT AFTER WE ARE FREE AND CLEAR OF THIS CURRENT CRISIS.〉


(I'LL BE FREE AND CLEAR!)
(YOUR ORDERS FROM THE OVERLORD ARE TO STAY AND FIGHT!)
(MACE IS ABOARD. WE'RE CLOSING THE HATCH!)
(ABOVE US!)
AAAIEEEE!
(ALMOST TWO DECADES OF MY LIFE THIS FOUL ORGANIZATION STOLE!)
(I AM OLD BUT MY KI IS STRONG)
THUD
(AND YOUR KI FLEES ITS TEMPORARY HOUSE.)

OLD NINJA... MOVES DIFFERENT--BETTER THAN... MAS KIMURA.
<BEGIN IGNITION SEQUENCE.>
THERE IS ANOTHER... NINJA GRANDMASTER... I CAN... LEARN FROM.
HE IS LIKE... ALL THE ELEMENTS... IN ONE.
SOLID AS EARTH.
AGGRESSIVE LIKE FIRE.
FLOWING LIKE WATER.
UNCATCHABLE LIKE THE WIND.
<IGNITION.>
VAROOM
'G' FORCES... INCREDIBLE!
WHERE ARE THEY TAKING ME?
<TIME TO REJOIN MY CHILDREN.>
<TIME FOR A FINAL STAND.>


DAYS LATER IN AN ISOLATED OUTPOST IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA...
<WE'VE RUN EVERY KIND OF TEST THERE IS.>
<...EVEN CREATED NEW ONES.>
<STILL, WE CANNOT DISCOVER EXACTLY WHAT THAT TRAITOR ITO DID TO THE 'MACE' CLONE. IT IS VITAL WE FIND OUT HOW TO UPGRADE OUR WARRIOR CLONE STOCK.>
<HAVE YOU EVER TRIED ASKING THE CLONE.>
<OF COURSE. BUT ITO'S CAUTION MEANT HE NEVER CONFIDED IN HIS CLONE.>
<HE REFUSES TO SPEAK.>
<IS HE WORTH KEEPING OR IS THIS A DEAD END?>
<WE SHOULD PUT HIM IN CRYOGENIC SUSPENSION UNTIL WE CAN DISCERN ITO'S INTENTIONS WITH THIS CLONE.>
THEY LEFT ME STRUNG UP HERE SO LONG THAT THE HEALING FACTOR DR. ITO INSTALLED HAS HAD TIME TO WORK.
I'M READY...
KARACK
AND THEY AREN'T GOING TO FREEZE ME!

HAVE TO DO AS MUCH DAMAGE AS I CAN ON MY WAY OUT...
...OUT WHERE?
THE OUTSIDE WORLD--THE REAL WORLD IS KNOWN TO ME ONLY FROM MEDIA SOURCES.
I'LL BE LOST.
<HIT THE CRYO-CONTROL HIT IT!>
<CIRCUITS INTACT!>
TZNNOOSH
NO!
<I WANT OUT!>
<WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?!>
<I AM A SOCIETY SOLDIER!>


QUICK! QUICK! CONCLUDE THE PROCESS!?
DONE!?
AAAAAAHHHHHHHH!!
FROZEN IN AGONY, THE CONTORTED MACE CLONE WILL THAW OUT IN TWO WEEKS--BE HERE FOR THE CONCLUSION!